Region II Interagency Coordinating Committee
2/28/05 meeting minutes

In attendance: Patty Redding, Scott Redding, Libby Brunson, Marlys Albright, Paula Burckhard, Nancy Rubbelke, Wendy Thomas, Kathy Lee, Rachele Yoder, Holly Pedersen, Mary Lou Holliday, Alan Ekblad, Jann DeVilbiss, Chris Strom, Andrea Tichy, Dianne Maupin, Diana Reiner

Guest Attendants: Kari Arrayan, JoLynn Webster (NDCPD, Leaps & Bounds Project)

1. Kathy Lee asked that introductions take place since we had guest speakers.

2. Wendy Thomas passed around minutes from the last meeting (10/11/04).

3. The 2005 meeting dates were announced. They will be held 2/28/05; 5/23/05; 8/22/05; and 11/21/05 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at NCHSC Conference Room A.

4. JoLynn Webster and Kari Arrayan presented an update on the Leaps & Bounds project. They provided a brief overview of the grant, outlined 3 main goals, presented several area partners, and discussed challenges. Discussion was held regarding the reception of area businesses of children with disabilities, the surprising number of activities available for children birth to three in the Minot area, and the possible gap in opportunities for children 3 to school age.

5. A committee member list was passed around so that members could update their contact information.

6. Wendy Thomas provided each member with a "Member Binder". The binder contains information about the history of the RICC, member expectations, meeting information, the QIP, commonly used forms, and resources. Extra binders have been made to share with new members as they join the committee.

7. Paula Burckhard announced that the State ICC is meeting this Thursday. She will provide an update at our next meeting.

8. Rachele Yoder presented information about various ND agencies that have a lending service for families. Agencies on the list include IPAT, MIDP, Pathfinders, ND State Library, ND Vision Services, State Developmental Center in Grafton, and the NDSD. Additions will be made to include SVSS and CCR&R. Rachele will bring an updated list to our next meeting.

9. Holly Pedersen announced that each of the four NDSD Parent Infant Outreach Programs have received hearing screening equipment (OAE machines). Training to use the machines will be delivered within the next 6 weeks. The NDSD is currently working with audiologists and other agencies to define a screening protocol. Challenges have been encountered in defining the screening population; but should be resolved shortly.

10. Marlys Albright provided a Right Track report for rural counties in Region II. Thea Holm was unable to attend but did provide the group with a summary of Right Track activities for Ward County. From 10/1/04 to 1/31/05, there were 159 children screened and 4 referred from Right Track to DDCM. Referral sources to Right Track included Trinity Hospital, Parents, Children's Special Health Services, Infant Development, Country Cousins, Lone Tree Special Education Unit, Heart of America in Rugby, Bottineau County Health Tracks, PATH, and CAPTA (2). Discussion was held regarding the low number of referrals from health facilities to Marlys.

11. Discussion was held to plan focus groups for families. Parent representatives from the committee will lead the planning and facilitate the focus group discussion. It was decided that a group of 12 families would be a representative sample. Diana Reiner offered the Early Head Start facility as a place to meet. Diana will contact Rachele with possible dates. We are planning to meet on a Monday night in April. Rachele will gather door prizes to offer as incentives to attend. Door prize donations have been offered by Diana Reiner, Kathy Lee, and Chris Strom. Paula suggested that a personal invitation to families would be most effective in ensuring their participation. Paula, Libby, Scott, and Patty offered to call parents to invite them to the focus group. Kathy will get family contact information to Paula. Plans are also being made to serve food and offer childcare. Rachele and Dianne will check with the MSU CEC and NSSHLA clubs for possible childcare volunteers. Focus group questions will be mailed out to families ahead of time. Rachele will present results at our next RICC meeting.

12. Upcoming trainings and conferences were announced. Dr. Louis Rossetti will be presenting a full day talk on "Enhancing Services for Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs" at MSU April 1, 2005. There will be an Autism conference entitled "*Putting the Pieces Together – Using a 5-Step Framework for Success"* held at the Anne Carlson Center in Jamestown June 2-3, 2005. The North Dakota Family Connections Conference will be held in Fargo June 8-10, 2005.

13. Wendy gathered feedback from the group on the next *Spotlights*: *On Gardening*. This family-friendly flyer will be mailed out to families in the Experienced Parent newsletter. The flyer provides parents with activity ideas to do with their children in community settings.

14. Marlys asked the group for information about the telephone system 2-1-1. After the meeting, Alan Ekblad provided Wendy with the following information. *"2-1-1 is the national abbreviated dialing code for free access to health and human services information and referral. 2-1-1 is toll-free, statewide, crisis intervention, information and referral service that operates 24 hours per day, seven days a week. It is unique in that it is always answered by trained staff and volunteers – there are no answering machines or voice mail systems to navigate. The 2-1-1 system can help locate assistance with issues such as: parenting, stress, abuse/domestic violence, emergency intervention, mental health services, support groups, financial assistance providers, etc. The database for the 2-1-1 system contains information about service providers that enhance the quality of individual and community life. If you are a provider of services and have not been contacted to place your resource information on the 2-1-1 database, please call (701) 255-3692. If you're a parent or someone looking for an answer, call today by dialing 2-1-1"*.

Submitted by Wendy Thomas